



# ARUBA TODAY

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Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

## Biden approval dips near lowest point: AP-NORC poll

By JOSH BOAK and  
EMILY SWANSON  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Approval of President Joe Biden has dipped slightly since a month ago, nearing the lowest point of his presidency as his administration tries to project a sense of stability while confronting a pair of bank failures and inflation that remains stubbornly high.

That's according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, which shows there have been modest fluctuations in support for Biden over the past several months. The president notched an approval rating of 38% in the new poll, after 45% said they approved in February and 41% in January. His ratings hit their lowest point of his presidency last July, at 36%, as the full weight of rising gasoline, food and other costs began to hit U.S. households.



President Joe Biden speaks at the White House Conservation in Action Summit at the Department of the Interior, March 21, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 2



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# Biden approval dips near lowest point: AP-NORC poll

Continued from Front

In recent months, approval of Biden had been hovering above 40%.

Interviews with poll respondents suggest the public has mixed feelings about Biden, who is expected to announce a reelection bid by this summer. When it comes to the president, people generally do not swing between the extremes of absolute loyalty and aggressive loathing that have been a feature of this era's divided politics. "Neutral towards approve," Andrew Dwyer, 30, said of Biden.

"I don't think he's the best at representing my position and issues. But I know being president involves compromises."

Dwyer, a data analyst in Milwaukee, said he voted for the president in 2020 and considers himself to be liberal. He acknowledged the recent failures of the Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank, but he said that the economy is adjusting to higher interest rates set by the Federal Reserve to combat inflation.

"We all got so used to cheap debt and the ability to throw money around," Dwyer said. He said there were "pain points" caused by higher borrowing costs but that he thinks the process will "ultimately" lead to a healthier economy.

The president has taken



President Joe Biden arrives to speak in the South Court Auditorium on the White House complex in Washington, Dec. 8, 2022.

ambitious steps to boost the U.S. economy, with his \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package from 2021, infrastructure investments, support for computer chip plants and taxes on corporations and the wealthy to help fund health care and a shift away from fossil fuels. But those efforts involve multiyear investments that have yet to provide much optimism to a public dealing with annual inflation at 6%. The president and other administration officials have toured the country to promote their achievements.

But to many, the economy feels as though it could be on a knife's edge after the

recent bank failures, as well as the debt limit showdown with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., that could put the U.S. government at risk of defaulting.

Just 31% approve of Biden's stewardship of the national economy, about where it's been over the course of the last year. His handling of the nation's economic fortunes has been a weak point at least since late 2021, when the inflation that the administration had suggested was transitory became a bigger pain point for businesses and families.

Michael McComas, 51, voted Republican in 2020 and described Biden as "not great — average, I guess."

A resident of Westland, Michigan, he noted that it will take years to determine whether federal infrastructure spending fulfills the promises made by Biden.

McComas said he believes inflation is the direct result of government spending to counter the pandemic, a claim that Biden has personally rejected when asked by reporters.

"We poured so much money into the system — that's a little frustrating that we were shocked that we got hit by inflation when a lot of our policies were inflationary," McComas said.

The difference between Biden's approval overall and his approval on the

economy is driven largely by Democrats, 76% of whom say they approve of how he's handling his job as president while 63% approve of his handling of the economy. Few Republicans approve of Biden on either count.

Democrats under the age of 45 feel less positive about Biden, causing a drag on his approval ratings. Just 54% approve of the president's economic leadership, compared to 72% of Democrats older than 45. Similarly, just 66% of Democrats under 45 approve of Biden overall, compared to 85% of older Democrats.

Ratings of Biden's handling of foreign policy (39%) and climate change (41%) are about on par with his overall approval ratings. Seventy-four percent of Democrats and 9% of Republicans approve of Biden on foreign policy, while 67% of Democrats and 17% of Republicans approve of his handling of climate change.

Theresa Ojuro, a 29-year-old doctoral student in Rochester, New York, said she "expected more" from Biden — "just a little bit more stability with the economy." Ojuro, who voted for Biden in 2020, also noted that the bank failures are dragging down her sentiment, but she worries about how high taxes are in New York state relative to the benefits provided. □

Associated Press

## SIGNATURE BANK

A sign is displayed at a branch of Signature Bank in New York, on March 13, 2023.

Associated Press

By KEVIN FREKING  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Leaders of the Senate's banking committee on Thursday warned former chief executive officers

at the failed Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank that they expect them to testify before the panel, saying in a letter to each: "you must answer for the bank's downfall."

## Lawmakers tell ex-CEOs 'you must answer' for bank failures

The committee is examining the events leading up to the closures of the banks, starting with the first congressional hearing on Tuesday. Separate letters were sent Thursday to Gregory Becker, the former head of Silicon Valley Bank, and to Joseph DePaolo, the former head of Signature Bank.

Both CEOs had indicated to the committee they would be unable to attend Tuesday's hearing, according to the letter.

But the senators said they believe the CEOs can testify to Congress without disclosing confidential information. Nor would the executives need to hand over bank records and files to provide informative testimony, they said.

Attorneys copied in on the letters sent to the CEOs did not immediately reply to requests from The Associated Press for comment. Silicon Valley Bank, based in Santa Clara, California, failed on March 10 after

depositors rushed to withdraw money amid fears about the bank's health. It was the second-largest bank collapse in U.S. history. Regulators convened over the following weekend and announced that New York-based Signature Bank also had failed. They said that all depositors at both banks, including those holding uninsured funds, those exceeding \$250,000, would be protected by federal deposit insurance. □



# Pentagon: Budget readies U.S. for possible China confrontation

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and TARA COPP

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military must be ready for possible confrontation with China, the Pentagon's leaders said Thursday, pushing Congress to approve the Defense Department's proposed \$842 billion budget, which would modernize the force in Asia and around the world.

"This is a strategy-driven budget and one driven by the seriousness of our strategic competition with the People's Republic of China," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said in testimony before the House Appropriations subcommittee on defense.

Pointing to increases in new technology, such as hypersonics, Austin said the budget proposes to spend more than \$9 billion, a 40% increase over last year, to build up military capabilities in the Pacific and defend allies.

The testimony comes on the heels of Chinese leader Xi Jinping's visit to Moscow, which added to concerns that China will step up its support for Russian President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine and increasingly threaten the West.

China's actions, said Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, "are moving it down the path toward confrontation and potential conflict with its neighbors and possibly the United States." He said deferring and preparing for war "is extraordinarily expensive, but it's not as expensive as fighting a war. And this budget prevents war and prepares us to fight it if necessary."

Rep. Hal Rogers, R-Ky., pressed the defense leaders on Xi's meeting with Putin and its impact on U.S. competition with China, which he called "the elephant in the room." The U.S., he said, is "at a crucial moment here."

The growing alliance between China and Russia, two nuclear powers, and Xi's overtures to Putin during the Ukraine war are "troubling," Austin said.



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Gen. Mark Milley, right, accompanied by Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, speaks during a briefing at the Pentagon in Washington, Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

Associated Press

He added that the U.S. had not yet seen China provide arms to Russia, but if it does, "it would prolong the conflict and certainly broaden the conflict potentially not only in the region but globally."

Milley, who will retire later this year, said the Defense Department must continue to modernize its forces to ensure they will be ready to fight if needed. "It is incumbent upon us to make sure we remain No. 1 at all times" to be able to deter China, he said.

Two decades of war in Iraq and Afghanistan eroded the military's equipment and troop readiness, so the U.S. has been working to replace weapons systems and give troops time to reset. It's paid off, Milley told Congress.

"Our operational readiness rates are higher now than they have been in many, many years," Milley said. More than 60% of the active force is at the highest states of readiness right now and could deploy to combat in less than 30 days, while 10% could deploy within 96 hours, he said. Milley cautioned that those gains would be lost if Congress can't pass a budget on time, because it will immediately affect training. Members of the panel, including Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, R-Fla., also made it clear that while they support the ongoing

U.S. assistance to Ukraine, "the days of blank checks


are over." And they questioned the administration's

ultimate goal there.

Milley said the intent is to make sure that Ukraine remains a free and independent country with its territory intact, maintaining global security and the world order that has existed since World War II.

"If that goes out the window," he said, "we'll be doubling our defense budgets at that point, because that will introduce not an era of great power competition, that will begin an era of great power conflict. And that will be extraordinarily dangerous for the whole world."

The hearing was likely one of Milley's last in front of Congress. His four-year term as chairman — capping a 43-year military career — ends in October. □



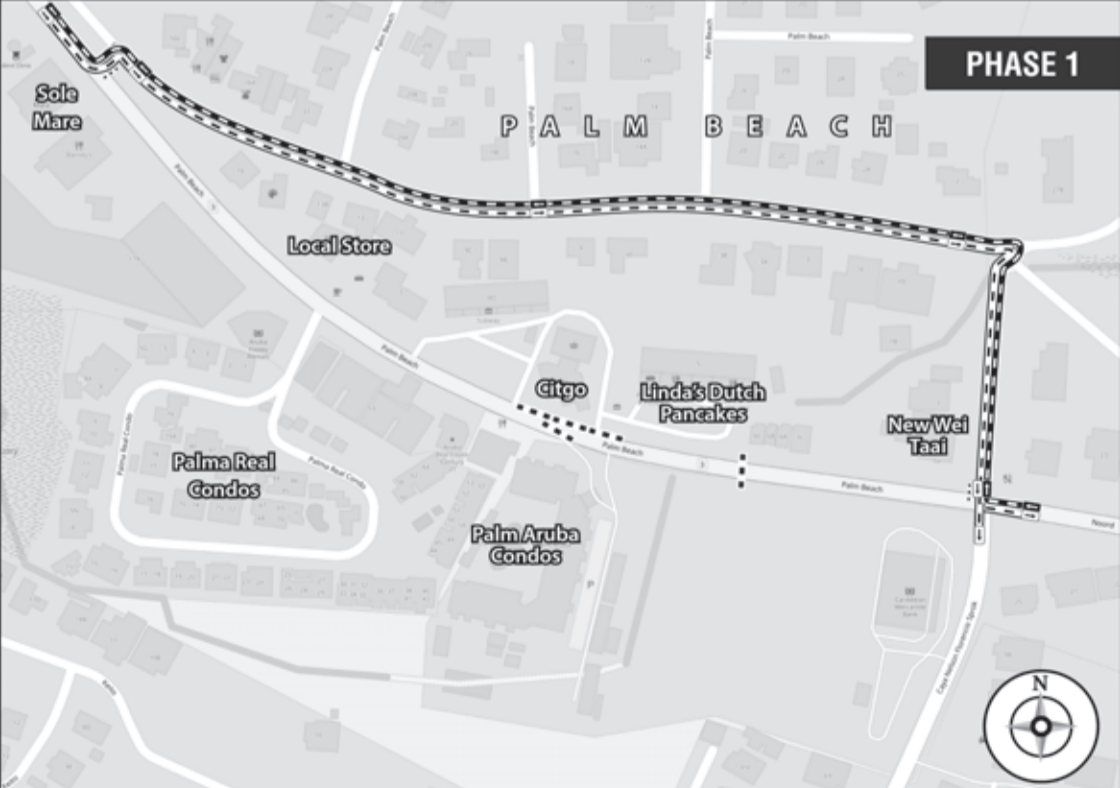
**Attention: Detour Ahead**  
Palm Beach

This upcoming Monday, 3/27/2023 at 9 am will commence the construction project at Palm Beach.

Phase 1 of the project will include upgrading the drainage in front of CITGO Palm Beach and repaving the road between CITGO Palm Beach and Santa Anna Pharmacy.

Traffic headed West will be deviated at the junction of New Wei Taai and come back onto the main road of Palm Beach at the t-junction of Sole Mare, and vice versa for traffic headed East.

The area will be inaccessible for traffic 24/7 for 30 working days.



**PHASE 1**

DOW and KPA urge the general public of Aruba, and all motorists and inhabitants of the area to please be aware of these upcoming detours. We would like to offer our apologies for any inconveniences caused as a result of these detours, and we're thankful for your cooperation and understanding.



# Scientists say mine plan claiming no swamp harm has errors

By **RUSS BYNUM**  
Associated Press  
**SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)** —

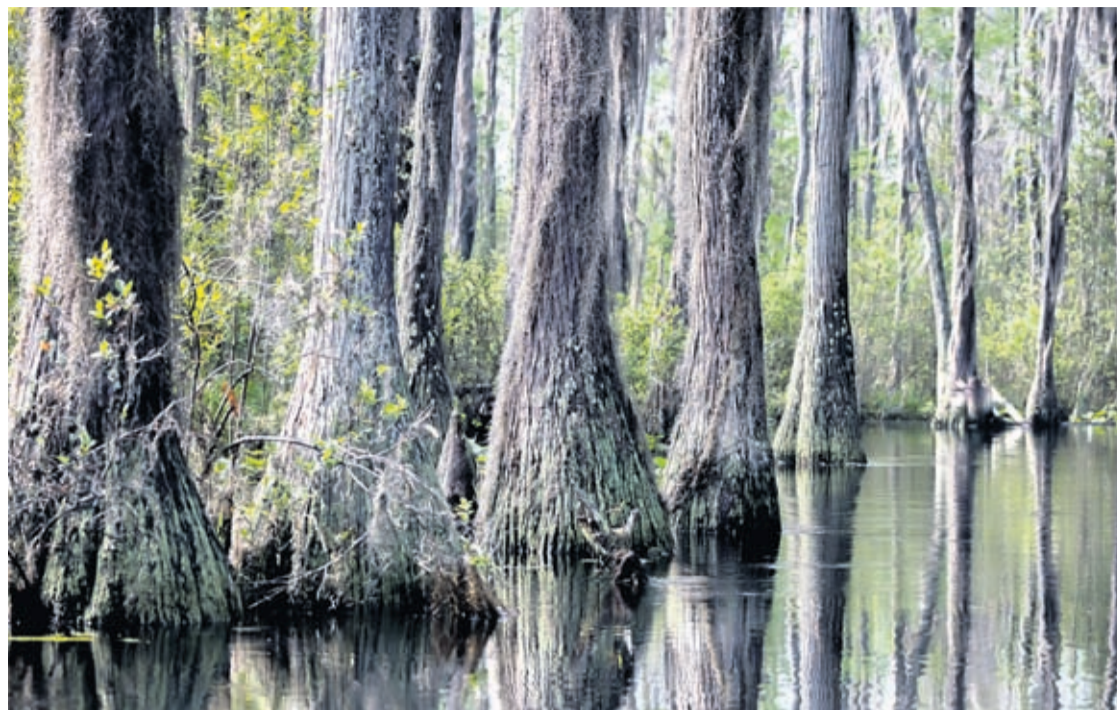
Scientists for the federal government say documents that Georgia state regulators relied upon to conclude a proposed mine won't harm the nearby Okefenokee Swamp and its vast wildlife refuge contain technical errors and "critical shortcomings" that render them unreliable.

Since 2019, Twin Pine Minerals has been seeking permits to mine titanium less than 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) from the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, the largest refuge east of the Mississippi River. Scientists have warned that mining near the swamp's bowl-like rim could irreparably harm the swamp's ability to hold water and increasing the frequency of withering droughts.

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division moved the project a big step forward in January by releasing a draft plan for how Twin Pines would conduct mining operations and mitigate any environmental damage.

The agency said its own analysis "concluded that water level in the swamp will be minimally impacted."

In response, hydrologists for



The Red Trail of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge winds through a stand of cypress trees on the way to the Stephen C. Foster State Park on April 7, 2022, in Fargo, Ga.

Associated Press

the National Park Service reviewed computer modeling results that Twin Pines had submitted to state regulators with its mining application. In a 28-page analysis sent to regulators last week, the scientists said several flaws cast doubt on regulators' conclusions.

"Our analysis revealed a series of critical shortcomings in the modeling used for prediction of impacts" to the Okefenokee refuge, Park Service hydrologists Kiren Bahm and Rajendra Paudel wrote.

The scientists said Twin Pines

consultants failed to look at the combined impact on the Okefenokee of groundwater gushing into mining pits, the pumping of additional water from an aquifer and disruption in soil layers at the swamp's edge. Instead, they wrote, those factors were measured separately.

The hydrologists also said computer models didn't account for seasonal and year-to-year variations in the Okefenokee's water levels, overlooking potential effects that diverting water from the swamp

could have during dry periods when it's vulnerable to drought.

Other problems cited by the scientists included mathematical errors in five data tables in Twin Pines' report.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the Okefenokee refuge, said in a March 17 letter to Georgia regulators that because the problems are so significant, the agency will make a renewed push for federal oversight of the proposed mine.

The Army Corps of Engi-

neers relinquished any permitting authority over the Twin Pines project following a rollback of environmental regulations under President Donald Trump. The Fish and Wildlife Service asked Georgia regulators to postpone further decisions on the mine until the Army Corps decides whether to reassert jurisdiction.

The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge covers nearly 630 square miles (1,630 square kilometers) in southeast Georgia and is home to alligators, bald eagles and other protected species. The swamp's wildlife, cypress forests and flooded prairies draw roughly 600,000 visitors each year, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division is working on a final mining plan for Twin Pines after a 60-day comment period on the project ended Monday. The mining plan must be finished for the agency to start drafting permits.

The division received more than 77,400 comments from concerned citizens, local officials, government agencies, conservation groups and others, said spokeswoman Sara Lips, in addition to more than 26,800 comments sent previously. □

# Names, photos of Los Angeles undercover police posted online

**LOS ANGELES**

The Los Angeles police chief and the department's constitutional policing director are under investigation after the names and photographs of undercover officers were released to a technology watchdog group that posted them online, the Los Angeles Times reported.

LAPD Chief Michel Moore offered his "deep apologies" to the undercover officers, who were not given advance notice of the disclosure, during a police commission meeting Tuesday.

The technology watchdog group Stop LAPD Spy-

ing Coalition posted more than 9,300 officers' information and photographs Friday in a searchable online database following a public records request by a citizen journalist, the Times reported. It was not immediately clear how many of those were undercover.

The coalition opposes police intelligence-gathering and says the database should be used for "countersurveillance."

"You can use it to identify officers who are causing harm in your community" the group wrote. "Police have vast information about all of us at their fingertips, yet they move in

secrecy."

The department's release of the undercover officers' names and photographs was inadvertent, the Times reported, even though the city attorney's office determined the agency was legally required to turn them over under California's public records law.

"We will look to what steps or added steps can be taken to safeguard the personal identifiers of our membership," Moore said Tuesday.

The department's inspector general launched the investigation into Moore and constitutional policing director Liz Rhodes after

the Los Angeles Police Protective League, the union that represents rank-and-

file officers, filed a misconduct complaint against them Monday. □



The Los Angeles Police Department headquarters building is seen downtown Los Angeles, Friday, July 8, 2022.

Associated Press



## Russia's security chief blasts West, dangles nuclear threats

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV  
Associated Press

**MOSCOW (AP)** — A top Russian security official warned Thursday about the rising threat of a nuclear war and blasted a German minister for threatening Russian President Vladimir Putin with arrest, saying that such action would amount to a declaration of war and trigger a Russian strike on Germany.

Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy secretary of Russia's Security Council chaired by Putin, said in video remarks to reporters that Russia's relations with the West have hit an all-time bottom.

Asked whether the threat of a nuclear conflict has eased, Medvedev responded: "No, it hasn't decreased, it has grown. Every day when they provide Ukraine with foreign weapons brings the nuclear apocalypse closer."

He has issued a barrage of such strongly-worded statements in the past, blasting the U.S. and its NATO allies for what he described as their efforts to break up and destroy Russia. It's been a drastic metamorphosis for the gentle-looking politician, who once was hailed by the West as a liberal



Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman and the head of the United Russia party Dmitry Medvedev arrives to attend the talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping at The Grand Kremlin Palace, in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

Associated Press

hope.

In Thursday's comments, the 57-year-old Medvedev denounced the International Criminal Court's decision to issue an arrest warrant for Putin on charges of alleged involvement in abductions of thousands of children from Ukraine as legally null and void. He noted that the move added to a "colossal negative potential" in the already bit-

terly strained ties between Russia and the West.

"Our relations with the West are already worse than they have ever been in history," he said.

Medvedev specifically blasted German Justice Minister Marco Buschmann, who said last week that Putin would be arrested on the ICC's warrant if he visits Germany.

"Let's imagine ... the leader

of a nuclear power visits the territory of Germany and is arrested," Medvedev said, adding that it would amount to a declaration of war against Russia. "In this case, our assets will fly to hit the Bundestag, the chancellor's office and so on." He noted that Russia's nuclear forces have provided a strong deterrent amid the fighting in Ukraine, adding that "we would have

been torn to pieces without them." Medvedev also challenged Ukraine's sovereignty in comments that could reflect Moscow's plans to extend its gains.

The soft-spoken and mild-mannered Medvedev, who served as Russia's president from 2008 to 2012 when term limits forced Putin to shift into the prime minister's post, was widely seen by Western officials as more liberal than his mentor. Many in the West expected Medvedev to win a second term and further soften the Kremlin's policies, but he stepped down to allow Putin to reclaim the presidency in what Kremlin critics denounced as a cynical manipulation.

Since Putin sent troops into Ukraine more than a year ago, Medvedev, a law faculty graduate, has emerged as one of the most hawkish Russian officials, regularly issuing bluster remarks that combine Latin mottos and legal expressions with four-letter words, and sound much tougher than those issued by old-time Kremlin hardliners. Observers have interpreted Medvedev's rhetoric as an apparent attempt to curry favor with Putin. □

## Bones kept by former eugenics institute buried in Berlin

By GEIR MOULSON  
Associated Press

**BERLIN (AP)** — Thousands of bone fragments, which may include the remains of victims of Nazi crimes, were buried Thursday after they were found on a Berlin university campus where an institute for anthropology and eugenics was once located.

Some 16,000 fragments were found on the campus of the Free University in excavations that started in 2015 after human and animal bones were discovered during restoration work. The site was once home to the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Anthropology, Human Heredity and Eugenics, which

operated from 1927 until 1945.

The university said that the recovered fragments are from "victims of crime contexts" that could include colonial-era events and Nazi crimes. Researchers determined that the bones belonged to people of all age groups, male and female.

But the university said that, following non-invasive examinations of the fragments and historical research, it wasn't possible to identify individual victims or to link the finds to specific colonized regions or to "clear Nazi contexts."

Organizations representing groups that may have

been among those the bones belonged to including Jews, Sinti, Roma and people with physical and mental disabilities killed by the Nazis, as well as the Herero people of Namibia, many of whom were killed in a colonial-era massacre agreed that further research shouldn't be carried out. They said the bones should be buried "without religious appropriation or eurocentric symbolism," the university said.

The public burial with about 230 guests took place Thursday at the Waldfriedhof cemetery in the Berlin suburb of Dahlem, near the site where the remains were found. Five simple



Caskets containing bones found on the grounds of the Freie Universität, Free University are lowered into the ground for burial, at the Waldfriedhof in Berlin, Germany, Thursday, March 23, 2023.

Associated Press

caskets were lowered into the ground by pallbearers. "The inhuman practice of research racism foresaw no burial for the remains and threw them in pits," said Daniel Botmann, a representative of Germany's

Central Council of Jews, German news agency dpa reported.

"Today we are taking numerous lives whose voices and biographies were extinguished to their last resting place." □



# Cost of India quitting coal is \$900 billion, think tank says

By **SIBI ARASU**  
Associated Press

**BENGALURU, India (AP)** — If India stopped burning coal tomorrow, over five million people would lose their jobs. But for a price tag of around \$900 billion over the next 30 years, the country can make sure nobody is left behind in the huge move to clean energy to curb human-caused climate change, according to figures released by New Delhi-based think tank Thursday.

The International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology, known by the acronym iFOREST, released two reports detailing how much it will cost for India to move away from coal and other dirty fuels without jeopardizing the livelihoods of millions who still are employed in coal mines and thermal power plants.

Ensuring that everyone can come along in the clean energy shift that's needed to stop the worst harms of climate change and guaranteeing new work opportunities for those in fossil fuel industries, known as a just transition, has been a major consideration for climate and energy analysts. "Just transition should be viewed as an opportunity for India to support green growth in the country's fossil fuel dependent states



Smoke rises from a coal-powered steel plant at Hehal village near Ranchi, in eastern state of Jharkhand, Sept. 26, 2021.

and districts," said iFOREST head Chandra Bhushan. To get the \$900 billion figure, the group researched four coal districts in India and identified eight different cost factors, like setting up infrastructure and getting workers ready for the transition.

The biggest single investment to enable a just transition will be the cost of setting up clean energy infrastructure, which the report estimates could be up to \$472 billion by 2050. Providing workers with clean energy jobs will cost less than

10% of the total amount required for a just transition, or about \$9 billion.

The think tank said \$600 billion would come as investments in new industries and infrastructure, with an additional \$300 billion as grants and subsidies to support coal industry workers and affected communities.

"The scale of transition is massive. If formal and informal sector workers are included, we are talking about an industry that is the lifeline for 15 to 20 million people," said Sandeep Pai, a senior associate at

the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington D.C. based think tank. "Reports like this are extremely important since the just transition conversation is beginning only now in India ... we need much more."

India is one of the largest emitters of planet-warming gases behind only China, the U.S. and the EU. The country depends on coal for 75% of its electricity needs and for 55% of its overall energy needs and is still a far way off quitting. Earlier this month, the In-

dian government issued emergency orders stipulating that coal plants are run at full capacity through this summer to avoid any power outages. The country's coal use is expected to peak between 2035 and 2040, according to government figures.

Prime minister Narendra Modi announced in 2021 that the country will achieve net zero emissions — where it only puts out greenhouse gases that it can somehow offset — by 2070. On Monday, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres urged nations to speed up their net zero goals, calling for developing countries to set a target of 2050. He was met with a muted response.

The reports recommends that the Indian government focuses on retiring old and unprofitable mines and power plants first. Over 200 of India's more than 459 mines can be retired in this way.

"The energy transition has to start with coal," said Jayant Sinha, who represents the coal-rich Hazaribagh constituency in the central Indian state of Jharkhand, adding that the switch to clean energy needs both funds and institutions to ramp it up. "Both of this must happen together for a successful transition," he said. □

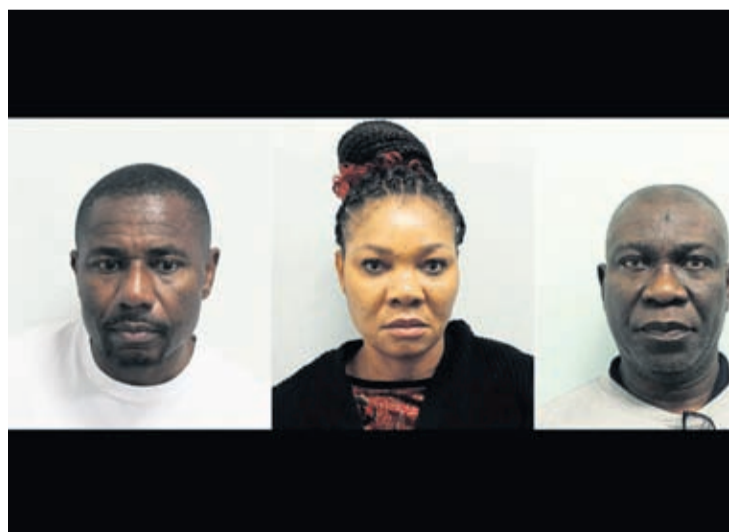
Associated Press

# Nigerian politician found guilty in UK organ harvesting plot

By **SYLVIA HUI**  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — A senior Nigerian politician and his wife were found guilty Thursday of conspiring to transport a street trader to the U.K. as part of an organ-harvesting plot. Ike Ekweremadu, who was deputy president of the Nigerian Senate and a lawyer, and his wife, Beatrice, were accused of arranging the travel of a 21-year-old man to the U.K. with a view to exploiting him for a kidney donation.

Prosecutors said the politician and his wife were behind the recruitment of



These undated handout photos provided by the Metropolitan Police on Thursday, March 23, 2023 show from right, Senator Ike Ekweremadu, 60, Beatrice Ekweremadu, 56, and Dr Obinna Obeta, 50.

Associated Press

the man at a Lagos street market, and that they arranged for the victim to provide a kidney to their 25-year-old daughter, Sonia, in an 80,000-pound (nearly \$100,000) transplant operation at a London hospital.

The victim, who was transported to London in February 2022, believed he was being taken to the capital for work, and that under the agreement he would be paid thousands of pounds, prosecutors said.

Kidney donations are lawful in the U.K., but it's a criminal offense to reward someone with money or

other material advantage for doing so.

The verdict is the first to convict suspects of an organ-harvesting conspiracy under the U.K.'s modern slavery laws.

As part of the ruse, the victim was described as Sonia's cousin in his U.K. visa application, and the Ekweremadus pretended to doctors that the young man was related to Sonia. But a doctor at the Royal Free Hospital became suspicious about the circumstances surrounding the proposed operation, and decided it couldn't go ahead. □



# Carib Wave 23's tsunami simulation training takes place on Aruba

**(Oranjestad)—Yesterday, the annual tsunami regional exercise, Carib Wave 23, took place. Different countries from the Caribbean region participated simultaneously in this activity and Aruba was one of island that executed this simulation yesterday morning.**

The goal of this exercise is to recognize and promote the efforts in preparations for tsunamis in the Caribbean and nearby regions. Every year, UNESCO organizes this training simulation in order to monitor the preparations from countries. In other words, to check how well-prepared these countries are in the case of a tsunami.

For this training, there were two different simulations executed, and every country that participated chose the scenario that fits with their own targets. The first scenario simulated a tsunami generated by a 7.6 magnitude earthquake in the Gulf of Honduras. The second scenario simulated a tsunami caused by the eruption of the Monte Pelée volcano.

In connection to this exercise, the director of the Disaster Response Office (BRA), Rino Hermans, explained during a press conference for local news outlets what exactly is taking place, which instances are participating and how this helps for future preparations.

Hermans explained that climate change is influencing the effects on a global scale and that this increases the risk for all countries. Aruba participates in this training annually, and is one of the countries that aggressively participates. He indicated that in the past, it was only first responders that participate in this training, along with the hospital. But now there are several hotels and schools that also participate. Additionally, 140 governmental departments are also joining in on the training this year, because every department needs to know what to do in emergency cases where a tsunami is headed towards the island.

He added that BRA trains for 24 hours for two consecutive days, along with the schools. The government departments that also participated have 5 years to establish their emergency plan to know what to do when a tsunami alert goes off. Hermans also explained that the government was given 72 hours in advance to evaluate what they have already established and what the agreements are for simulation training.

Hermans remarked that the infrastructure is the main concern for them and that they will begin working on it this year. The director indicated that Aruba must be on an international level when it comes to preparations by 2030. This has already been determined

in a study back in 2014 for countries around the world, where they have already established that every country needs a concrete plan and that they must also help reduce the risk of a tsunami.

In this study, it has been shown that people often leave the responsibility to first responders alone. However, Hermans pointed out that if a tsunami does indeed ever strike Aruba, there will be around 40,000 people who will be affected by it, along with many buildings and structures on the island. He stated that the commercial sector is on the south side of the island, which is the most vulnerable part.

"Let's not forget that a tsunami wave is one of energy and not wind. Wind waves hit the coast and goes back in, while an energy wave keeps pushing until it reaches a hill or mountain; that's when it calms down. If a tsunami ever hits the northern part of the island, it will go around the island and go back in. The theory that this will go towards the Venezuelan coast and bounce back applies for wind waves," he explained.

Hermans highlighted that we cannot just assume that the first impact of a tsunami on the island will not be big, because the moment the tide pulls in, the tsunami will come back and consume everything in its way.

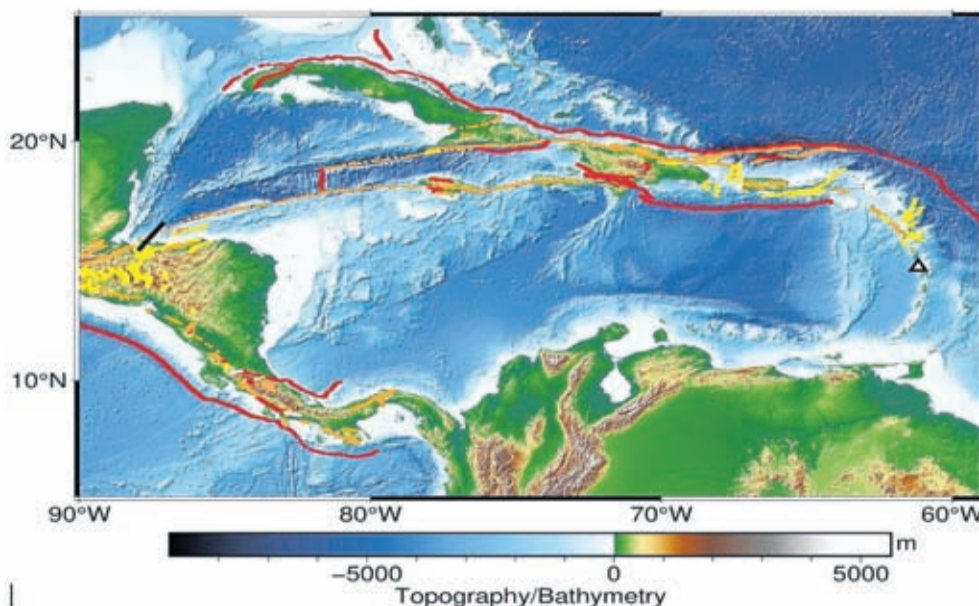


"It's true that hurricanes call for attention. It's true that the hurricane period is 6 months long, but a tsunami is very worrisome. If it wasn't, UNESCO and the UN wouldn't have organized these training for the Caribbean islands," he stated.

In terms of the community and how they will receive more information about the tsunami, Hermans indicated that there are various trajectories that are taking place. For the next 12 months, the first execution phases will take place to complete the project.

Hermans underlines that the early warning project is a very big project: it's very costly, but this project does not leave out infrastructure nor lives. "The public needs to understand that the world is changing, and we need to be prepared for it. First as a family, then as an organization and later as a country. Do not leave the responsibility to the government or first responders alone, because after 10 days, there will be no food, no dock, no airport. It's up to you to protect your family." □

CARIBE WAVE 23



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## Fresh fish right out of the Caribbean Sea to your plate



**ORANJESTAD** – Fish restaurants are everywhere, but do they serve fresh fish daily right out of the Caribbean Sea? The Grand Fish Restaurant does. This locally-owned restaurant is situated merely 5 minutes from the strip and is open as early as 11am for the lunch lovers.

The minute you step inside you can feel the homey and cozy warm ambiance by the décor and the friendly staff who will receive you with open arms.

The Grand Fish Restaurant has an extraordinary menu starting with appetizers, salads and their famous fish soup. The entree dishes consist of a variety of fresh fish like whole red snapper, fish steak, fish cake, grilled salmon, mixed seafood or seafood rice (paella local style) combined with sides of vegetables, french fries, rice, plantain, the island's traditional 'pan bati' (slapped bread) or funchi (cornmeal cake).

Each and every dish is made with passion, love and dedication. Yes... even the fried

ones!

There are also pasta, meat and poultry options plus a kid-friendly menu with crispy chicken or fish nuggets, cheese burgers, mac & cheese and kid tenderloin.

Pair your meal with your favorite drink or cocktail, a wine of your choice or a glass of The Grand Fish yummy homemade fresh lemonade.

If you haven't visited The Grand Fish yet, check out our local page for a coupon for a free glass of wine and make sure to drop by. The staff will be happy to welcome, guide and serve you for an amazing casual bite and good time.

**The Grand Fish Restaurant** is situated at Taratata Road 15, unit #1. Open from 11AM – 10PM from Wednesday till Monday CLOSED on Tuesdays!!! ☐



## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Aruba Beach Club Resort

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently recognized the Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. Presenting the Ambassadors with the Emerald certification as a token of appreciation. The Emerald certification is granted to ambassadors to recognize, their loyalty, friendship, and visits to the island of Aruba.

Emerald Honorees have been choosing Aruba as their preferred vacation destination for more than 35 years consecutively. The Honoring certification program has three levels, which are divided according to the number of consecutive years visiting the island.

Honoring Levels:

- Distinguished Ambassadors: 10> years
- Goodwill Ambassadors: 20> years
- Emerald Ambassadors: 35> years

Honorees were: Emerald Ambassadors: 35> years: Demi & Holly Thoman are residents of New Jersey, United States (have been coming to Aruba for 45 years consecutively).

George & Beth Schlageter are residents of New York, United States (have been coming to Aruba for 42 years consecutively).

Ms. Olga Ruiz representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of the

Aruba Beach Club bestowed the certification of the Emerald Ambassador. The honorees were presented with the Emerald Ambassador Certificate and memorable gifts.

On behalf of the Government of Aruba, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Thoman and Mr. & Mrs. Schlageter for making Aruba their preferred vacation destination for so many years. We are so thankful to

have had such wonderful visitors all these years! Aruba is unquestionably their home away from home!

The top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by the honorees were:

Demi & Holly Thoman reasons:

1. Four generations of family and friends here
2. Weather
3. Great places to eat
4. Great Surf and beaches
5. Safe island ☐





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## Aruba attends the UN Water Conference 2023

During the week of March 22 and March 24, 2023, an Aruba delegation representing our nature is in New York to attend the UN Water Conference. This year, the Netherlands and Tajikistan co-organized the United Nations Water Conference.

The goal is to bring stakeholders from different sectors together to accelerate the implementation and reduce the impacts of water-related challenges worldwide.

The three principles used to guide the conference are inclusivity, taking action, and inter-sectorial.

We live from the water. It is a resource crucial for human well-being, energy production, food, a healthy ecosystem, and climate adaptation. It also reduces poverty and much more. Water is essential when discussing sustainable development, but contamination and excessive use of this resource negatively affects human health and economic activity. Access to clean water is a human right. However, there are still millions around the world with no access to water. It requires urgent actions to guarantee sustainable water distribution for all basic human needs.

In Aruba, we must remember that our water resource is the ocean, not only the ocean surrounding Aruba but all oceans.

That is why it is essential to know the challenges of other countries and foment collaboration, especially for the islands in the Caribbean. This way, responsible action can be taken, bringing about sustainable solutions that consider our nature.

Minister Ursell Arends, responsible for Nature in Aruba, and Prime Minister Evelyn Wever-Croes will participate in the different sessions about the commitments proposed by the Aruban Government regarding the SDGs. □



**Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.**

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Bill and Patty/Maggie and Bryan from Upstate New York**, who say they love the beauty and the weather. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

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# Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a wind-swept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

### Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a "must see" landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the "T" junction to Baby Beach. Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

### About the Anchor Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the "fluke" or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos. This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

### Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

#### Story 1:

"According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk

out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain."

#### Story 2:

"Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them."

### How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zee-wijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's

Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The "anchor", which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated "To All Seamen" on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

### Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated "To All Seamen" in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

### The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. ☐





**Thayisa Farro:****“Dancing has and continues to bring joy in my life”**

(Oranjestad)—Thayisa Zieryani Farro is a young adult who has been, since very young, active in different hobbies. As an adult and currently working as a tax advisor, she still participates in activities and continues to practice her hobbies. In a special interview with our Aruba Today, she shares her life story, her hobbies and how she hopes to continue to be active for many more years to come.

**BDA: Tell us a bit about yourself and your childhood.**

Farro: “Aside from school, I had a very active childhood, where I had taken dance lessons, cuatro lessons, ping-pong and drawing lessons. Out of all these activities, it was dancing that I loved the most. After I finished primary school, I attended Colegio Arubano secondary school and at that time I knew that if I didn’t finish home work or finish studying, I would not be allowed to go to dance lessons, no matter how much I cried and begged.

Besides these things, I spent a long time with family, especially my sibling and cousins. We spent a lot of hours playing outside, going to the beach, riding bikes and playing ball games. It was a fun time.”

**BDA: How old were you when you started in the dance world? And why did you choose dancing?**

Farro: “I started ballet lessons at 4 years old at Simadanza with Miss Ina Profet. My mom put me in these lessons, because she never had the opportunity herself to do this. I ended up loving ballet after a few lessons. From there my love for dancing grew. Besides the lessons at Simadanza, I also danced with Pierewietje, with Miss Martha Figa-

roa. When I turned 10 years old, I started folklore lessons with Miss Astrid Salazar from Simadanza. I slowly started participating in more dance lessons at Simadanza, including jazz-ballet, modern dance, street dance and tap dance.

When I went to study abroad, I took some dance lessons too. When I came back to the island, I went back to Simadanza. Now, as an adult, I participated in a few lessons at ArubaSalsa with Miss Melitza Bermudez and I’m currently dancing with Kids and Youth in Action.”

**BDA: What did you study?**

Farro: “When I was younger, I always wanted to be a dentist. When I finished secondary school, I was drawn out to study dentistry in The Netherlands. During this time, I went to Belgium to study biomedical sciences y obstetrics with the thought that I would be able to study dentistry later. Unfortunately, I was never chosen by the university. After 2 years, I returned to Aruba. This is when I was advised to study Law at the University of Aruba, because it was a very broad study. After I finished my Bachelor of Law, I did my Masters in Taxes at the University of Aruba and Maastricht; totally different from dentistry, but still a study that taught me a lot about our rights on the island.”

**BDA: Do you feel that dancing made you the person that you are today?**

Farro: “Looking back, I feel that dancing helped me become disciplined, determined and responsible. Dancing taught me to prioritize my time so I can finish my other obligations from school or work before I can dedicate it to dancing. It’s also a time where I can be



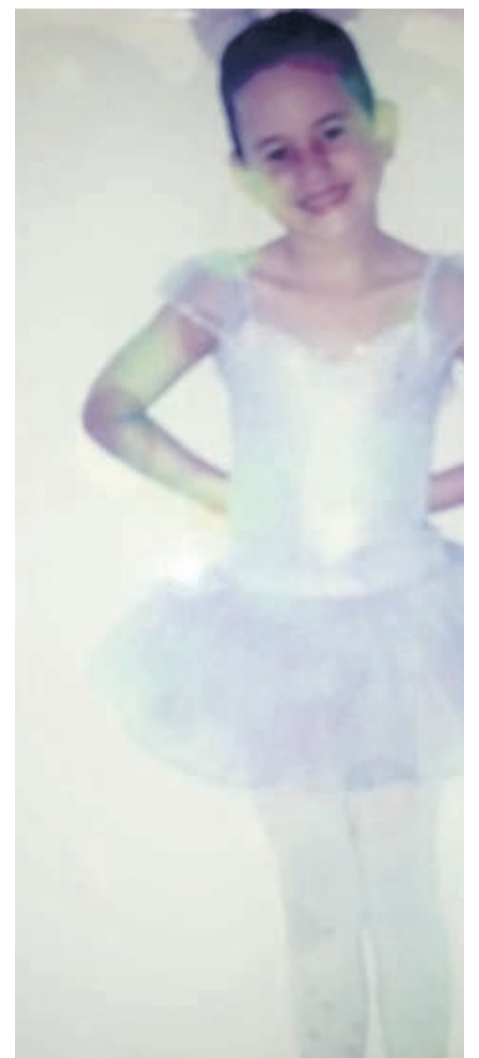
creative and challenge myself so I can master a certain dance or choreography.”

**BDA: you still dance. Is it something you see yourself doing for a long time?**

Farro: “I sure hope so! Dancing has and continues to bring joy in my life. I got to know a lot of people through dancing and I’ll always have an admiration for them. During dance lessons, we would always laugh and have a great time. It’s a time where the stresses of everyday life disappear. Dancing has also been proved to reduce the risks for certain chronic illnesses, like dementia. For this reason, I wish to be dancing for many more years, so I can keep the mind and body strong and healthy.”

**BDA: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?**

Farro: In 10 years, I hope to still be dancing and be active in the dance and sports world. I hope to be in good health, spending more time with family and friends, and using my life experiences to help and inspire others.” □





**CROSSWORD**

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Kitchen gadget
  - 6 Harold of "Ghostbusters"
  - 11 Be penitent
  - 12 Before, in Brest
  - 13 Crucifixes
  - 14 Best Picture of 1955
  - 15 Squid's squirt
  - 16 Truck part
  - 18 Gadot of "Wonder Woman"
  - 19 Biol. or geol.
  - 20 First número
  - 21 Tea cooler
  - 22 Didn't ignore
  - 24 Crumb carriers
  - 25 Casa-blanca setting
  - 27 Domingo song
  - 29 Short jacket
  - 32 Second número
  - 33 Ornate vase
  - 34 Yale student
  - 35 Place to park
  - 36 Plunked down
- DOWN**
- 37 Guitarist Wood
  - 38 Pol's concern
  - 40 "Luther" star Elba
  - 42 Hog rider
  - 43 Caribou's cousin
  - 44 Appears
  - 45 Fairy tale monsters
  - 1 Parson's domain
  - 2 Right away
  - 3 Beginner's blunder
  - 4 Purpose
  - 5 Firefighter, at times
  - 6 Stallone role
  - 7 Director DuVernay
  - 8 Poll calculation
  - 9 Unbroken
  - 10 Fashions
  - 17 Neighbor of Spain
  - 23 Film noir classic
  - 24 Trick taker, often
  - 26 Peseta division
  - 27 Ignores the script
  - 28 Dorm sharer
  - 30 Precocious Plaza resident
  - 31 Frees of suds
  - 33 Manual readers
  - 39 Opal or onyx
  - 41 Pound occupant

C	O	S	T	S	G	E	N	E	S
S	U	M	A	C	E	X	A	L	T
A	R	O	M	A	T	I	M	M	Y
K	E	R	M	I	T				
A	G	E	L	I	T	S	A	P	
S	I	D	L	E	S	A	C	M	E
S	M	O	O	T	H	E	D	O	U
E	M	U	S	E	L	A	P	S	E
S	E	T	J	A	B	E	E	R	
			H	A	R	O	L	D	
P	A	G	A	N	W	O	O	E	R
A	M	A	Z	E	E	L	U	D	E
T	I	B	E	T	D	A	T	U	M

Yesterday's answer

**DOWN**

- 1 Parson's domain
- 2 Right away
- 3 Beginner's blunder
- 4 Purpose
- 5 Firefighter, at times
- 6 Stallone role
- 7 Director DuVernay
- 8 Poll calculation
- 9 Unbroken
- 10 Fashions
- 17 Neighbor of Spain
- 23 Film noir classic
- 24 Trick taker, often
- 26 Peseta division
- 27 Ignores the script
- 28 Dorm sharer
- 30 Precocious Plaza resident
- 31 Frees of suds
- 33 Manual readers
- 39 Opal or onyx
- 41 Pound occupant

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				
13					14				
15			16	17			18		
19			20				21		
22		23			24				
	25				26				
27	28			29			30	31	
32			33				34		
35			36				37		
38		39			40	41			
42					43				
44					45				

3-24

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-24

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

S G Y S K Y Y V X C H H S Y H H S G Y C K

V Y Q K Y S V S P S G P V Y S G N S

S W T Y C T . — V S Y D Y T L N B Y Y

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: DON'T WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO BRING YOU FLOWERS. PLANT YOUR OWN GARDEN AND DECORATE YOUR OWN SOUL — LUTHER BURBANK

# Why you should bench credit cards for March Madness bets

By **JAIME HANSON**  
of NerdWallet

By the end of the 2023 NCAA tournament, an estimated one in four Americans will have wagered \$15.5 billion in bets on the various games, according to the American Gaming Association. Last year, Matt Cappelen a 34-year-old firefighter from Elk Grove Village, Illinois would have been in the middle of the action. For this year's dance, though, he'll be sitting on the sidelines of the betting game.

"I've always been a die-hard sports fan," Cappelen said. "Pretty much anything that involves a winner and a loser, I loved." Since legal online sports betting was first made available in Illinois in 2020, the fun of sports had only gotten that much bigger for Cappelen.

"I was able to combine making money, or so I thought, and sports," he said. "What better way to do that than with gambling?"

But in the three years since, Cappelen built up \$83,000 in gambling debts on sites like Bovada and FanDuel. Up to 90% of that, he says, was done on credit cards. "You feel like you're playing with fake money or play money. Monopoly money," Cappelen said. Each month, he used gambling winnings to make the next minimum payment on his credit cards, never worrying about how he would repay the debt.

"I legitimately thought that I was going to start to get on a hot streak and win it all back." That hot streak never came, though, and the credit card debt piled



A basketball with a March Madness logo rests on a rack before a First Four game between Illinois and Mississippi State in the NCAA women's basketball tournament Wednesday, March 15, 2023, in South Bend, Ind.

Associated Press

up. Finally, after a crushing late-night loss on a particularly big bet, Matt confessed it all to his wife. He knew he needed help, and has since joined Gamblers Anonymous and registered for a debt recovery program. But because online sports betting has become so accessible, many more may walk the same road.

**FEWER REGULATIONS, MORE RISKS?**

Since the 2018 overturn of the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act, which lifted a 26-year federal ban on online sports betting, more than 35 states have legalized the practice in some form. Of those, only a handful specifically prohibit the use of credit cards to fund bets. Of the \$15.5 billion total expected wager on this year's March Madness, it's unknown what fraction will be placed using credit cards, though betting operators argue that it's a relatively small percentage. "Using a credit card for gambling is definitely higher risk," said Keith Whyte,

executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling. Yet he stopped short of noting any specific correlation between problem gambling and credit card use, citing a lack of research. Because legal online sports betting in the U.S. is so new, data is scarce on the exact impact of credit card use for American gamblers. But in a 2021 study on general credit card spending, MIT's Sloan School of Management found that by reducing the pain of payment, "(credit cards) 'step on the gas' by driving motivation to spend." And in Great Britain, where online sports betting has been legalized and widely available for much longer, the use of credit cards was banned in 2020.

This ban came after a 2019 study by the United Kingdom Gambling Commission found "22% of online gamblers using credit cards (were) problem gamblers, with even more suffering some form of gambling harm."

**HIDDEN COSTS OF CREDIT CARD GAMBLING**

Even if you're willing to accept the risk of sports betting with your credit card, spiraling spending isn't the only potential downside. Other forms of gambling harm, Whyte explains, "might just include losing more money than you planned." □

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# Feel your pain? Even fish can show they care

**By CHRISTINA LARSON**  
**AP Science Writer**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Our capacity to care about others may have very, very ancient origins, a new study suggests. It might have been deep-rooted in prehistoric animals that lived millions of years ago, before fish and mammals like us diverged on the tree of life, according to researchers who published their study Thursday in the journal Science. "Some of the mechanisms that underlie our ability to experience fear, or fall in and out of love, are clearly very ancient pathways," said Hans Hofmann, an evolutionary neuroscientist at the University of Texas at Austin, who was not involved in the research. Scientists are usually reluctant to attribute human-like feelings to animals. But it's generally accepted that many animals have moods, including fish. The new study shows that fish can detect fear in other fish, and then become afraid too — and that this ability is regulated by oxytocin, the same brain chemical that underlies the capacity for empathy in humans. The researchers demonstrated this by deleting genes linked to producing and absorbing oxytocin in the brains of zebrafish,



In this photo provided by researcher Rui F. Oliveira, a zebrafish, bottom, is monitored to see its reaction to a video of another at a laboratory in Oeiras, Portugal in March 2023.

Associated Press

a small tropical fish often used for research. Those fish were then essentially antisocial they failed to detect or change their behavior when other fish were anxious. But when some of the altered fish received oxytocin injections, their ability to sense and mirror the feelings of other fish was restored what scientists call "emotional contagion." "They respond to other individuals being frightened. In that regard, they behave just like us," said University of Calgary neuroscientist Ibukun Akinrinade, a co-author of the study. The study also showed that zebrafish will pay more attention to fish that have previously been stressed out a behavior the researchers likened to consoling them.

Previous research has shown that oxytocin plays a similar role in transmitting fear in mice. The new research illustrates "the ancestral role" of oxytocin in transmitting emotion, said Rui Oliveira, a behavioral biologist at Portugal's Gulbenkian Institute of Science and a study co-author. □

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## Kim Raver on how 'Grey's Anatomy' puts women at center

By **HILARY FOX**  
Associated Press

"Grey's Anatomy" has long championed women's rights and female leadership on and offscreen not only does the long-running hospital drama cover contentious topics like abortion, but it also offers women on the show a chance to expand their roles behind the scenes.

Kim Raver is the latest cast member in that spotlight, playing both the new hospital chief in front of the camera and a first-time director behind it. Raver, who portrays surgeon Teddy Altman, has directed "Training Day," an episode airing Thursday with a storyline that discusses reproductive rights. This season, the series has not shied away from addressing the conflict between anti-abortion and abortion-rights advocates stirred up by the overturning of Roe v. Wade last June, and the resulting change in abortion access. At the start of season 19, the gynecology staff at Grey Sloan Memorial swapped from pink scrubs to black, as one charac-



Kim Raver poses for a portrait on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, in Los Angeles to promote her series "Grey's Anatomy."

ter explained: "the female body has become a war zone in this country and pink is a peacetime color." "I feel fortunate that we can bring these stories to light. They're not easy," Raver said in a recent interview. Then the audience is left to decide for them-

selves how they feel. "That's really important in storytelling and that we have that, that we have that freedom to approach different uncomfortable storylines where we're all bound to, you know, disagree," Raver said. "But I think it's discussions that we

need to have." For the actor, directing is the accumulation of over three years' work shadowing directors on set and being mentored by actor, director and executive producer Debbie Allen, who plays Catherine Fox. "There's this thing that we

say on 'Grey's' in terms of in medicine, 'see one, do one' and that's what doctors do, right? That's what the interns do with the attendings," Raver explained. "There are many women doing many different roles on set. So 'see one, be one,' right? I see other female directors, I see female editors, I see female boom operators, I see female camera operators and female DPs."

She said that the feeling of possibility is fostered by showrunners, executives, writers and producers of "Grey's" like Allen, Rhimes, Betsy Beers, Krista Vernoff and Meg Marinis, which Raver appreciates after coming up in a time when she says female performers were expected to "stay in that lane."

"It wasn't like, 'Oh, well, you know ... let's give her a tiny little episode and see,'" she said. "They gave me a huge episode with like two stunts, a birth ... (guest star) Kate Walsh came back. It was massive. And all the while they were like, 'You've got this. We know you can do it.'" □

Associated Press

## Lindsay Lohan, other celebs settle with SEC over crypto case

By **ALEX VEIGA**  
AP Business Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Actress Lindsay Lohan, rapper Akon and several other celebrities have agreed to pay tens of thousands of dollars to settle claims they promoted crypto investments to their millions of

social media followers without disclosing they were being paid to do so. Lohan, Akon, recording artists Ne-Yo, and Lil Yachty, boxer and internet personality Jake Paul, and adult film performer Michele Mason all agreed to pay more than \$400,000 combined

in disgorgement, interest and penalties to settle the claims, the Securities and Exchange Commission said Wednesday. None admitted or denied the SEC's findings as part of the settlement. Two other celebrities named in the SEC's complaint, rapper Soulja Boy and pop singer Austin Mahone, did not reach a settlement with the SEC, the agency said.

In response to a request for comment, Lohan's publicist Leslie Sloane said the actress was contacted in March 2022, was unaware of the disclosure requirement, and agreed to pay a fine to resolve the matter. Lohan, who last week announced she is pregnant, was called to give up the \$10,000 she was paid, plus interest, and pay a \$30,000 fine, according an

SEC complaint. A spokeswoman for Paul declined to comment. Emails left with representatives for the other celebrities named in the SEC complaint weren't immediately returned Wednesday.

In the complaint filed by the SEC in federal court in New York, the agency claims the celebrities were paid to promote Tronix (TRX) and BitTorrent (BTT), both crypto asset securities that were offered for sale by three companies owned by Justin Sun, a Chinese national. Sun is the permanent representative of Grenada to the World Trade Organization and may be living in Singapore or Hong Kong, according to the complaint.

Starting at around August 2017, Sun allegedly offered to sell billions in the

unregistered securities and engaged in manipulative trading, while also creating secondary markets on which Tronix and BitTorrent could be traded, according to the complaint.

"Although the celebrities were paid to promote TRX and BTT, their touts on social media did not disclose that they had been paid or the amounts of their payments," according to the complaint. "Thus, the public was misled into believing that these celebrities had unbiased interest in TRX and BTT, and were not merely paid spokespersons."

Many celebrities and athletes have used their influence and massive social media followings to promote cryptocurrencies in recent years, including Matt Damon, Tom Brady and Reese Witherspoon. □



Actress Lindsay Lohan appears at the Christian Siriano Fall/Winter 2023 fashion show in New York, Feb. 9, 2023.

Associated Press



## Joshua facing pressure, new reality ahead of comeback fight

By **STEVE DOUGLAS**  
AP Sports Writer

For so long the poster boy of boxing's heavyweight division, Anthony Joshua has been facing a new reality in recent months. Suddenly, the British fighter is on the outside looking in. His star has fallen even his promoter acknowledges that in the wake of punishing, back-to-back losses to Oleksandr Usyk that have led many to question Joshua's ability, even as a two-time world champion. "You can't be like, 'Man, it's been tough, you know, life's been down,'" Joshua told the Associated Press. "You always have to walk with your head held high, chest out.

"It's a different perspective for me now, but it's not one that rules me or makes any difference to my behavior."

So, while the biggest heavyweight fights are being made or, in the case of the collapsed bout between Usyk and Tyson Fury, not made around him, Joshua is adapting to his new status and beginning a fresh phase in his career. The hunter, as opposed to the hunted.

The pressure, however, is still very much on him.

On April 1, Joshua takes on



Britain's Anthony Joshua takes part in a public workout in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022 as he prepares for the upcoming world heavyweight title boxing fight against Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk.

American boxer Jermaine Franklin in London for his first fight since losing the rematch against Usyk in Saudi Arabia in August. It's the first time in 13 fights, stretching back to December 2015, that Joshua won't be attempting to either retain or regain a world title. Win, and Joshua with his brand and standing will no doubt be thrust back in the conversation for world title fights.

Eddie Hearn, his promoter,

was even tweeting excitedly on Thursday about a potential all-British fight with Fury next up followed by, somewhat optimistically, a fight to be undisputed champion.

Lose to Franklin, though, in a fight being televised by the DAZN streaming service, and Joshua's career will be hanging in the balance. It would be three straight losses or four in six fights taking in the shocking defeat to Andy Ruiz Jr. at

Madison Square Garden in June 2019.

Even Hearn would struggle to sell Joshua as a credible heavyweight force in that case.

And deep down, Joshua knows it.

"This is what I've signed up for, this is what I want, and I'm going to live up to the expectation," Joshua told the AP.

After the second loss to Usyk, Hearn spoke of Joshua likely having three or

four fights in 2023 to build him back up for a shot at being world champion for a third time.

With the heavyweight division in flux after the collapse of Fury-Usyk, that title shot could yet come much quicker.

"I'm going to be flexible, keep a flexible mindset, be open-minded," said Joshua, who spoke of wanting his world titles back within "12-16 months."

It all hinges on beating Franklin, an American who lost for the first time in his 22-fight professional career in a majority decision against Dillian White in London in November.

"I'm a promoter, I'm hyping the fight, but I am nervous," Hearn said.

Joshua has another trainer a third different one in as many fights for the Franklin bout, with Derrick James in his corner.

Joshua has been with James, who also has Errol Spence Jr. in his stable, in a training camp held exclusively in Dallas during which the Brit says he has dedicated himself solely to boxing and avoided distractions.

"He is the truth, you know," Joshua said of James, who he seems to regard as a permanent trainer. □

Associated Press

## Track bans transgender athletes, tightens rules for Semenya

By **EDDIE PELLIS**  
AP National Writer

Track and field banned transgender athletes from international competition Thursday, while adopting new regulations that could keep Caster Semenya and other athletes with differences in sex development from competing.

In a pair of decisions expected to stoke outrage, the World Athletics Council adopted the same rules as swimming did last year in deciding to bar athletes who have transitioned from male to female and have gone through male puberty.

No such athletes currently compete at the highest

elite levels of track.

Another set of updates, for athletes with differences in sex development (DSD), could impact up to 13 current high-level runners, WA President Sebastian Coe said. They include Semenya, a two-time Olympic champion at 800 meters, who has been barred from that event since 2019.

Semenya and others had been able to compete without restrictions in events outside the range of 400 meters through one mile but now will have to undergo hormone-suppressing treatment for six months before competing to be eligible.

Coe conceded there are

no easy answers on this topic, which has turned into a societal lightning rod involving advocates who want people assigned female at birth to be able to compete on even footing and others who don't want to discriminate against transgender and DSD athletes.

"All the decisions we've taken have their challenges," Coe said. "If that's the case, then we will do what we have done in the past, which is vigorously defend our position. And the overarching principle for me is we will always do what we think is in the best interest of our sport."

Athletes with sex develop-

ment differences, such as Semenya and Olympic 200-meter silver medalist Christine Mboma of Namib-

ia, are not transgender, although the two issues share similarities when it comes to sports. □



South Africa's Caster Semenya is shown at the Diamond League athletics event in Doha, Qatar, May 3, 2019.

Associated Press



# Sloppy racing could make it tough for NASCAR road ringers

By JENNA FRYER AP

Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

The NASCAR field this Sunday will be stacked with two former Formula One world champions, an Indy-Car driver and a sports car star who has a 24 Hours of Le Mans win on his resume. What can these so-called ringers expect on the road course at Circuit of the Americas?

"To get run over," Brad Keselowski said. "They are just going to get run over by another driver because we've gotten to this spot where wrecking, yeah, it's cool. And we don't see these guys again, and so what does it matter if you wreck them?"

That's hardly what Kimi Raikkonen, Jenson Button, Conor Daly and Jordan Taylor signed up for. Raikkonen, the 2007 F1 champion, made his Cup debut on the road course at Watkins Glen last year and seemed competitive until he was run off course on a restart and his race ended with a crash into a fire barrier.

Button, the 2009 F1 champion, is making his NASCAR debut, as is Taylor, a four-time IMSA sports car champion and class winner at the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Daly will be making his third career Cup start, and first since he qualified for last month's Daytona 500.

The quartet are all sea-



Aric Almirola (10), Tyler Reddick (45), Kyle Larson (5), and Alex Bowman (48) wreck exiting Turn 4 during the NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Atlanta Motor Speedway, Sunday, March 19, 2023, in Hampton, Ga.

soned road racers Raikkonen has made eight career F1 starts at COTA and his 2018 win there was the last of his 21 career victories but probably don't stand a chance Sunday because of the sloppy state of racing.

The Truck Series and Xfinity Series races at Atlanta Motor Speedway last week saw a record number of cautions in both event. Two-time Cup champion Kyle Busch even lashed out at the recent lack of respect being shown on the track.

Busch was specifically refer-

encing a last-lap crash the week before at Phoenix, when former teammate Denny Hamlin admitted he intentionally wrecked Ross Chastain. Hamlin has been fined by NASCAR he's appealing but Busch couldn't help but note the change in etiquette on the track as a generation of drivers retired and were replaced by a younger, more aggressive group.

The days of Hall of Famers Dale Earnhardt, Jeff Gordon, Mark Martin and Tony Stewart policing the garage and keeping order are, according to Busch,

essentially over.

"We're all selfish, granted. But there was an etiquette that did live here. Mark started it, Tony really lived by it, I think Jeff lived by it. It did exist."

Chastain scored the first Cup win of his career last season at COTA with an aggressive final lap three-driver battle in which Chastain essentially had to knock both AJ Allmendinger and Alex Bowman out of his way to get to victory lane. There were nine cautions in the race that contributed to 19% of it being run under yellow.

Associated Press

It could be more of the same Sunday. COTA marks the first road course race of the season for a group of drivers who specialize on ovals.

Allmendinger said he forgave Chastain for taking him out of contention last year, but acknowledged road racing has been hit-or-miss for NASCAR in terms of quality of show.

"Last year was interesting to me because half the road course races were great races, and then half of them kind of weren't. I don't know what made one race good and the next race maybe not good," said Allmendinger, who noted the durability of NASCAR's stock cars make it easier for drivers to be overly physical.

"It's a unique thing to stock car racing, right? You use the front of (the car), use the sides of it, and for the most part, it's kind of 'Have at it.' I think it's probably more aggressive than it's ever been ... but it's on us to fix it. Otherwise you start asking NASCAR to make calls and I don't think anybody wants that. You don't want NASCAR up in the tower making a black flag on one guy for doing something and then the next person does something and nothing happens. It's just super aggressive and we've got to police it ourselves." □

# Adam Wainwright headed to injured list with groin injury



U.S. pitcher Adam Wainwright (50) attempts to throw out Cuba's Alfredo Despaigne at first during the third inning of a World Baseball Classic game, Sunday, March 19, 2023, in Miami.

Associated Press

By PAT GRAHAM

AP Sports Writer

Adam Wainwright was in line for his seventh opening day start. Instead, the veteran St. Louis Cardinals right-hander will begin what's slated to be his final season on the injured list with a groin injury.

Cardinals manager Oliver Marmol told reporters Thursday before St. Louis' spring training game against the New York Yankees that Wainwright could miss several weeks. The 41-year-old apparently strained his groin in a workout before

Team USA lost to Japan 3-2 in the championship game of the World Baseball Classic on Tuesday. Wainwright went 2-0 with a 2.25 ERA over eight innings to help the U.S. reach the final.

"We'll continue to evaluate over the next few days but no timetable at the moment," Marmol said, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. "There is a spot in the rotation now open, and we're going to have to sit down and make sure that we're not missing anything that goes into that." Wainwright has gone 195-

117 with a 3.38 ERA over 17 seasons with the Cardinals. He's a three-time All-Star who's posted two 20-win seasons, along with winning two Gold Gloves.

The Cardinals welcomed back to camp Nolan Arenado and Paul Goldschmidt, who played for Team USA, along with Lars Nootbaar, an outfielder for Team Japan. The Cardinals posted a picture of them stretching with the caption: "What do you think they are talking about!?" Goldschmidt and Nootbaar were in the starting lineup Thursday. □